Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SUBJECT: LIBYAN NATIONALIZATION OF BP

1. DECEMBER 8 "EL MOUDJAHID" HEADLINES: "LIBYAN REVOLUTION NATIONALIZES BRITISH BP COMPANY" AND REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED PRESIDENT QADHAFI BY TELEPHONE "TO EXPRESS THE SUPPORT OF THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE FOR THESE REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES". MOUDJAHID'S COVERAGE MENTIONS BUT DOES NOT EMPHASIZE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATIONALIZATION AND IRANIAN OCCUPATION OF THREE ISLANDS IN PERSIAN GULF, APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO CONSIDER LIBYAN ACTION A "REVOLUTIONARY MEASURE".

2. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE ALGERIANS HAVE PRESSED LIBYANS TOWARD EARLY NATIONALIZATION OF OIL COMPANIES, IT IS NATURAL THAT ALGERIANS WOULD CONGRATULATE AND SUPPORT FIRST SUBSTANTIAL LIBYAN MOVE TOWARD EMULATING ALGERIAN POLICY OF TAKING CONTROL OF ITS NATIONAL RESOURCES. ALGERIANS MIGHT ALSO SEE THIS FORTUITOUS DEVELOPMENT AS AN ISSUE WHICH WILL HELP SWING LIBYA AWAY FROM ITS EGYPTIAN CONNECTIONS TOWARD MAGHREB AND CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA.
EAGLETON

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